

**Senate Research Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Thursday, February 3, 2000 at 10:00 a.m. in room S-205**

**Present:** C. Bédard, J. Beaudoin, E. Besso, R. Bhat, F. Haghighat, R. Hale,  
N. Howe, R. Lachapelle, B. Layne, T. Mak, R. Roy, N. Sajnani

**Regrets:** J. McGuire, D. Pushkar

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved with the addition of CFI Research Plan under item 8, along with the distribution of a table of CFI applications involving Concordia researchers for the February 1, 2000 competition.

**2. The minutes of the meetings of Thursday, September 23, 1999 (Dr. Howes, Dr. Besso) and November 25, 1999 (Dr. Lachapelle, Dr. Bhat) were approved with the edits recommended to the Director's Report by Dr. Besso in each set of minutes. A copy of the revised Director's Report from both meetings is attached.**

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

The Associate Dean from the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science again raised the issue of eligibility for the University Research Fellow Award. The topic will be an agenda item for the March meeting

**4. Chair's report**

**CFI:** a table outlining the applications of this round of CFI applications was circulated. There are also two New Opportunity applications awaiting adjudication. There is a prevailing sense that the federal March budget will inject more funds into the CFI, possibly making the agency permanent.

**Visit from M. Renaud:** the President of SSHRC and member of the interim governing council of the CIHR visited Concordia university on January 14, 2000 to discuss the new funding possibilities for research in health related fields. The session was well-attended by researchers from many diverse disciplines.

**URF reception:** owing to the difficulty in reserving space on our campus, the URF 2000 awards' reception will be held at the Chateau Versailles this year. A breakfast will be held in honor of Dr. Michel Laroche and Dr. Jane Stewart as the guests of honor, and 50 guests have been invited.

**Valorisation Research Québec:** the Chair thanked Dr. Besso for her efforts on Concordia's behalf in drafting the Letter of Intent, a first step in the process of establishing the consortium to which Concordia will belong.

**Genome Canada:** a project is underway to establish a national network of researchers involved in fields related to genomics. Quebec will receive about \$50 million, and McGill will be the hub for the province. Concordia's department of Biology and Biochemistry, as well as Computer Science, are involved, with Dr. Adrian Tsang as Concordia's main representative.

**FCAR:** the agency visited universities to consult on how to finance the Fine Arts. The President of FCAR visited Concordia and met with artists, in a effort to get enough information to be able to design programs which will benefit artists. FCAR should be announcing its findings in a concrete way in April 2000.

**Postdoctoral Policy:** NSERC has asked all institutions to submit an institutional policy on postdocs. The PVRR has asked Dean Bédard to establish a committee, comprised of representatives from each faculty, ORS, and the postdoc community. It is hoped that Concordia will have a policy drafted by April 1st 2000.

5. Report from the Director, Office of Research Services

- FCAR visited Concordia to present and consult on a new Equipes programme planned for applicants from the Fine Arts and creative disciplines. It is expected that FCAR will announce the changes in Spring 2000.
- Concordia submitted several grant applications to CIHR, all in the research personnel category, and all from the Department of Psychology.
- The *ORS Report on Research Funding* for 1998-99 is now available; contract funding is up, SSHRC results are higher than in the past few years, and NSERC funding shows a slight decrease.
- The Director asked SRC members to publicize the existence of the ORS Majordomo Listserve, which sends out regular messages regarding funding opportunities and other research-related communications of importance to the community.
- Dr. Jain's Nortel/NSERC industrial partnership grant has resulted in a license.

6. Question period

Dr. R. Hale raised the general question of how to define "recognition" with respect to a Faculty member's research accomplishments, and for the department as well. Some departments have been steadily increasing their research, yet it appears that their efforts are not getting internal "recognition". Dean Beard invited members to forward their comments about research and recognition to Vice-Rector M. Danis, as Professor Danis is in the process of re-drafting the CUFA collective agreement.

7. New Business

- **Award for Graduate Mentoring**

(SRC-03-02-00-D1)

The document, which has been circulated at the Council of Graduate Studies, was brought to SRC, since mentoring is closely tied to research activities. The members were asked for their comments on the document. The membership agreed that the establishment of the award would support the view that mentoring is an important activity for faculty members and researchers, with an important impact on graduate students.

The specific comments regarding the wording of the document will be incorporated into the next draft, which will be circulated at the March Assembly of Graduate Program Directors, and then brought back to Council for a final vote.

- **Discussion of Policies and Procedures pertaining to awarding the title of Professor Emeritus**

(SRC-03-02-00-D2)

The Committee agreed that the title of "Emeritus" should be strictly reserved for retired professors who have had an outstanding career, as per the current tradition. It was also agreed that another more appropriate title should be used to permit retired faculty members to continue to contribute to the University, either as researchers or teachers, or both.

8. Other business

CFI: there was some discussion as to whether the CFI Institutional Research Plan should be revised. It was decided that Faculty representatives would enquire within their faculties whether changes were required. It was also suggested that a template should be provided to each faculty so that the document will have a consistent appearance.

An up-to-date table of this round's applications was also distributed.

9. The next meeting will be Thursday, March 30, 2000

10. Adjournment